

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5082

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4694

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, JO

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH DEA UNIT IN JORDAN

REF: STATE 160188

1. I MUST REGRETFULLY DECLINE THE DEA PROPOSAL (REFTEL) TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE IN OUR MISSION IN JORDAN. I WILL ATTEMPT TO SET OUT THE REASONS FOR MY DECISION, AS FOLLOWS:

2. WE AGREE THAT JORDAN HAS ESTABLISHED AN IMPRESSIVE ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATION AND WE BELIEVE THAT OUR MISSION HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ASSISTING THEM TO DO SO. WE SEE NO REASON, HOWEVER, WHY WE CANNOT CONTINUE THIS RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS.

3. THE JORDANIAN NARCOTICS BUREAU IS A VERY SMALL UNIT, I.E., SIX OFFICERS AND 17 ENLISTED MEN. WHILE PLANS EXIST TO EXPAND THE SIZE OF THIS UNIT WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, THE FACT REMAINS THAT ITS CURRENT CAPABILITIES ARE A DIRECT FUNCTION OF ITS MANPOWER. IN THIS CONTEXT, WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A DEA UNIT HERE, PLANS TO EXPAND THE NARCOTICS BUREAU'S ACTIVITIES INTO SYRIA AND THE GULF DO NOT APPEAR REALISTIC AT THIS TIME.

4. FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD NOT BE POLITICALLY APPROPRIATE FOR DEA TO ESTABLISH ANY DIRECT INFLUENCE ON JORDAN'S TRAINING AND SECURITY PROGRAMS IN THE UAE OR THE GULF

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STATES, SINCE THE GOJ DOES NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE USED

AS AN AGENT OF US INFLUENCE IN THE GULF. WE BELIEVE ANY SUCH EFFORT BY DEA COULD BE EASILY MISCONSTRUED AND COMPLICATE JORDAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE GULF STATES, WHICH ARE HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO JORDAN FINANCIALLY AND TO THE GULF STATES IN INTERNAL SECURITY TERMS. THIS CAN BEST BE PRESERVED FOR THE SHARED INTERESTS OF JORDAN AND THE U.S. IN CONTROLLING DRUG TRAFFIC THROUGH PRESENT DISCREET LIAISON NOW HANDLED BY THIS EMBASSY.

5. WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THERE IS ANY APPRECIABLE TIME GAP IN THE RECEIPT OF INFORMATION HERE FROM THE NARCOTICS BUREAU AND ITS TRANSMISSION TO DEA IN BEIRUT AND/OR ANKARA. IF SO, WE ARE RECEPTIVE TO ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE TRANSMISSION, WHICH IN ANY EVENT WOULD SEEM TO BE PROBLEM OF MECHANICS NOT PERSONNEL, IF SUCH A PROBLEM IS PRESENT.

6. THE POINT THAT A DEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNED HERE WOULD BE ABLE TO MONITOR THE UTILIZATION OF THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY BEING RECEIVED BY JORDAN IS QUESTIONABLE SINCE WE BELIEVE THAT THE NARCOTICS BUREAU IS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF DOING THIS ITSELF. LT. COL. GHARAYBAH WHO HEADS THE NARCOTICS BUREAU IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND CONSCIENTIOUS OFFICERS IN THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES.

7. WE BELIEVE WE ARE MAINTAINING EXCELLENT LIAISON WITH THE NARCOTICS BUREAU AND WE VERY MUCH INTEND TO CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE AND DEVOTE THE NECESSARY TIME AND EFFORT REQUIRED. THE EMBASSY ALSO MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACT WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN, WHOSE INFLUENCE INSURES THAT THE PROGRAM MAINTAINS A HIGH PRIORITY. IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR HIGH-LEVEL EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO CARRY OUT THESE CONTACTS WITH THE CROWN PRINCE WHICH ARE MORE IN THE NATURE OF OVERSIGHT THAN IN ACTIVE DIRECTION IN ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS A RESIDENT DEA AGENT HERE. WE ALSO, AS IMPLIED ABOVE, DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ENOUGH EVEN POTENTIAL WORK HERE AT THE PRESENT TIME TO KEEP A FULL-TIME DEA AGENT BUSY.

8. FINALLY, I AM CONCERNED GENERALLY IN KEEPING THE SIZE OF OUR MISSION AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY THAT EXISTS CONCERNING THE MIDEAST SITUATION. WE WERE SUBJECTED TO LARGE INCREASES DURING THE PAST YEAR (A 20-MAN FBIS UNIT WAS ESTABLISHED HERE) AND OUR GROWING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS HAVE ENGENDERED PRESSURES FOR STAFF INCREASES THAT ARE DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR ASSISTANCE EFFORTS HERE, AND WHICH THE GOJ NATURALLY FINDS OF PRIORITY INTEREST. IT IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO HOLD THE LINE

AGAINST THESE DEMANDS, WITHOUT HAVING INTRODUCED ANOTHER AGENCY'S PRESENCE, WHEN IN OUR JUDGEMENT THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM IS BEING ADEQUATELY PURSUED UNDER PRESENT LOW KEY ARRANGEMENTS.

9. I WISH, HOWEVER, TO RE-ITERATE MY AWARENESS OF THE HIGH PRIORITY THE USG GIVES TO DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE WORLD-WIDE NARCOTICS PROGRAM. WE ARE PROUD OF THE ONE THAT HAS DEVELOPED HERE AND INTEND TO INSURE ITS CONTINUED EFFECTIVENESS, WHICH WE BELIEVE WE CAN DO THROUGH CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS. WE WOULD FURTHER BE WILLING TO REVIEW THIS MATTER IN A YEAR'S TIME, OR IF THERE IS ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL SITUATION.

10. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S FULL SUPPORT IN DECLINING A PERMANENT DEA PRESENCE IN AMMAN. PICKERING

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